

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are now pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-4, 6-9, 11-14, and 16-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Cather, Jr. (U.S. Pat. No. 4,504,067, hereinafter Cather). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

At the outset, Applicant notes that each of the independent claims 1, 6, and 11 have been amended to define the entire polymeric liner as being "movable with the elastomeric lip portion about the hinge portion toward and away from the case" and being "free from any radial contact with the case." As illustrated in Figure 1, the case 12 of the present invention has a radially inwardly extending portion 14 that contacts the liner 30 in an axial direction, but is free from radial contact with the liner. Contrary to this, Applicant respectfully submits that in the device of Cather, the entire liner is not movable with the elastomeric lip portion toward and away from the case and is not free from radial contact with the case. Instead, there is a portion of the liner that is in constant radial contact with the axially extending portion of the case which defines part of the U-shaped metal shell. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims as amended properly distinguish from Cather.

In view of the above comments and the amendments to the independent claims, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-20 as amended.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 5, 10, and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by Cather, Jr. (U.S. Pat. No. 4,504,067, hereinafter Cather) in view of Rlesing (U.S. Pat. No. 2,804,325). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant notes that claims 5, 10, and 15 depend from either independent claim 1, 6, or 11 and as such, should be in condition for allowance for the reasons set forth above.

In view of the above remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 5, 10, and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (734) 354-5445.

Respectfully submitted,

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